

I have had many conversations over the course of the last several months with Dan on this point. I am pleased at his enthusiastic response to the desire that many share with regard to building value-added markets in the future.

Dan Glickman also understands the importance of the next generation of agriculture. He knows that the farm community is getting older, that the farm community is getting to the point where, indeed, we must look to the next generation for the long-term future and viability of agriculture. He knows we have to help young farmers. He knows that the only way to do that is to provide a better price.

Dan Glickman also understands the importance of conservation. Conservation has been an issue that he has worked on for many years. He realizes the importance of the CRP program and the efforts that we made to address soil erosion. He understands the importance of research in providing for the efforts to conserve our soil and to do more in the realm of providing for long-term environmentally sound responses to the agricultural practices of the past.

So, Dan Glickman is a very futuristic individual. He understands that we made an investment that ought to be protected, but he understands, as well, the need to refocus that investment as warranted.

Mr. President, it is with great enthusiasm that I come to the floor this evening to support his nomination, to again reiterate my view that there are few people that have come to the Senate in support or in recognition of the need for agricultural policy that have been as qualified as this person is.

Dan Glickman deserves strong bipartisan support. Given the remarks made by the majority leader and others in the Senate Agriculture Committee, I am confident that there will be overwhelming support demonstrated in our vote for him tomorrow.

Once he becomes Secretary, I look forward to working with him. I know for the next couple of years his plate will be full and his agenda will be long, but, I think there also will be a good deal of willingness on both sides of the aisle to work with him to ensure that he is successful.

Our country depends upon the talents of a Dan Glickman. Our future in agriculture depends upon his leadership. It is critical that we cooperate with Dan as he continues to provide that leadership.

Mr. President, I hope that we can demonstrate with enthusiasm tomorrow how strongly we feel about this nomination, how hopeful we are about his success and how determined we can be about our willingness to cooperate as he begins his task. I yield the floor.

Mr. EXON addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. EXON. Mr. President, I want to add my voice to the strong support that has been evident for a long time with the President's new nominee for

the Secretary of Agriculture, former Congressman Dan Glickman, from my neighboring State of Kansas.

Mr. President, much has been said about this dedicated, talented individual. I have heard statements made by Senator LEAHY, the ranking Democrat on this side of the Agriculture Committee; by the majority leader, Senator DOLE, who has, as he has indicated in his remarks on the floor a few moments ago, the record as the longest sitting member of the Agriculture Committee; and just a few moments ago by the minority leader, from my neighboring State to the north, South Dakota, the minority leader, Senator DASCHLE.

They all summed up very, very well, the regard that the nominee had by those who know him the best. I have known him for a long, long time. I have worked with him on foreign policy ever since I have been in the U.S. Senate.

He is one who thoroughly understands the farm programs, but more importantly, what an important part agriculture is to the overall economy of the United States of America.

I remind all once again that, if it were not for the offsetting factor of exports of farm products, the balance of trade deficit that the United States has would skyrocket dramatically. Dan Glickman understands agriculture. He knows the serious situation that agriculture is facing today. I am delighted that the majority leader has called for the vote on tomorrow morning.

I am anxious to begin working with the new Secretary of Agriculture because, as the lead Democrat on the Budget Committee, the new agricultural leader knows, the Agricultural Committee knows, the Appropriations Committee knows, that the actions that will take place in the Budget Committee in the near future are going to have a great deal to do with how successful the new Secretary of Agriculture will be in writing a workable farm program and policy.

I have not been in a position, nor has he, during this waiting period which held up his assuming this new role in even a more timely fashion—it was not possible for me to sit down with him and talk specifics about what his recommendations will be with regard to the recommendations out of the Budget Committee for the total agricultural programs.

Dan Glickman will do a great job. I will listen to his recommendations very carefully with regard to the farm program. Given the fact we are going to have to make some very, very hard choices on a whole series of issues if we are going to get ourselves on the road to a balanced budget by the year 2002—which I think obviously is the overwhelming goal of Members of the Congress on both sides of the aisle and in both Houses—it is, therefore, critically important we get Dan Glickman on board as soon as we make the confirmation tomorrow and as soon as the President goes through the formality, which I hope will follow almost instan-

taneously. Then Dan Glickman can take over fully the important function of Secretary of Agriculture of the United States of America and, for that matter, the Secretary of Agriculture for the whole free world.

I urge as near a unanimous vote as possible. I would not be surprised if the vote of the Senate was unanimous tomorrow morning. I am looking forward to working with my great friend, Dan Glickman, who will be the new Secretary of Agriculture.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Dakota.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate return to legislative session, to the bill, for purposes of my offering an amendment that has been agreed to on both sides regarding grazing permits for cattle in certain parts of the United States.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EMERGENCY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT

The Senate continued with the consideration of the bill.

AMENDMENT NO. 425 TO AMENDMENT NO. 420

(Purpose: To extend the terms of permits for grazing on National Forest System lands to allow time for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 in connection with permit renewals)

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, on behalf of myself, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. SIMPSON, and others, I send an amendment to the desk that has been approved on both sides and that the chairman of the Interior appropriations subcommittee has approved, and I ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from South Dakota [Mr. PRESSLER], for himself, Mr. THOMAS, and Mr. SIMPSON proposes an amendment numbered 425 to amendment No. 420.

Mr. PRESSLER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

At the appropriate place insert the following:

SEC. . RENEWAL OF PERMITS FOR GRAZING ON NATIONAL FOREST LANDS.

Notwithstanding any other law, at the request of an applicant for renewal of a permit that expires on or after the date of enactment of this Act for grazing on land located in a unit of the National Forest System, the Secretary of Agriculture shall reinstate, if necessary, and extend the term of the permit until the date on which the Secretary of Agriculture completes action on the application, including action required under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).